

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 3-5 and 8-10 have been amended and claims 11-20 have been added as follows:

Claim 1 (original): An information-transfer system for transferring an object and relevant information from a sending source to a receiving destination, comprising:

information storage means, which is attached to said object and stores said relevant information;

information storing means, which writes into said information storage means said relevant information in association with key information when said key information and said relevant information are entered at said sending source;

key-information sending means, which sends said key information from said sending source to said receiving destination through a route different from that taken by said object; and

information reading means, which reads from said information storage means said relevant information that corresponds with said key information when said key information is entered at said receiving destination.

Claim 2 (original): The information-transfer system set forth in claim 1, wherein:

if said object is delivered through at least one en route location, then said relevant information comprises a plurality of relevant information sets each of which is specific to and to be

conveyed to a corresponding one of said en route locations and said receiving destination, and said key information comprises a plurality of key information pieces each of which is distinct and specific to a corresponding one of said en route locations and said receiving destination;

 said information storing means writes into said information storage means said relevant information sets specifically in association with said key information pieces, which correspond to said en route locations and said receiving destination, respectively;

 said key-information sending means sends said key information pieces each key information piece being specifically for a corresponding one of said en route locations and said receiving destination; and

 when said key information piece received is entered, said information reading means reads from said information storage means only said relevant information set that corresponds with said key information piece entered.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The information-transfer system set forth in claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein:

 when said key information is entered, said information reading means reads from said information storage means only said relevant information that is associated with said key information entered and deletes from said information storage means said relevant information that is associated with said key information entered.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The information-transfer system set forth in ~~any of claims 1 ~ 3~~ claim 1, wherein:

 said information storage means comprises an IC tag, from and to which said relevant information can be read and written without any physical contact.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A physical distribution system comprising at least one physical distribution base, through which an object is delivered from a sending source to a receiving destination, wherein:

 said physical distribution system comprises the information-transfer system set forth in ~~any of claims 1 ~ 4~~ claim 1.

Claim 6 (original): An information-transfer system for transferring an object and relevant information from a sending source to a receiving destination, comprising:

 information storage means, which is attached to said object and stores part of said relevant information;

 information storing means, which divides said relevant information into first relevant information and second relevant information and writes said first relevant information into said information-storage means at said sending source;

 divided information sending means, which sends said second relevant information from said sending source to said receiving destination through a route different from that of said object; and

information reading means, which restores at said receiving destination said relevant information from said first relevant information read from said information storage means and said second relevant information received from said divided information sending means.

Claim 7 (original): The information-transfer system set forth in claim 6, wherein:

if said object is delivered through at least one en route location, then said relevant information comprises a plurality of relevant information sets each of which is specific to and to be conveyed to a corresponding one of said en route locations and said receiving destination;

said information storing means stores into said information storage means divided sets of first relevant information, each divided set of first relevant information being specifically associated to a corresponding one of said en route locations or said receiving destination;

said divided information sending means sends divided sets of second relevant information from said sending source, each divided set of second relevant information being sent specifically for a corresponding one of said en route locations or said receiving destination through a route different from that of said object; and

said information reading means restores each relevant information set for a corresponding one of said en route locations or said receiving destination from said divided set of first relevant information that is specified to the corresponding one of said en route locations or said receiving destination and from said divided set of second relevant information that has been received from said divided information sending means.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The information-transfer system set forth in claim 6 [[or 7]], wherein:

 said information reading means reads said first relevant information from said information storage means and deletes said first relevant information from said information storage means after the reading.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The information-transfer system set forth in ~~any of claims 6~~
~~—8~~ claim 1, wherein:

 said information storage means comprises an IC tag, from and to which said relevant information can be read and written without any physical contact.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A physical distribution system comprising at least one physical distribution base, through which an object is delivered from a sending source to a receiving destination, wherein:

 said physical distribution system comprises the information-transfer system set forth in ~~any~~
~~of claims 6—9~~ claim 1.

Claim 11 (new): The information-transfer system set forth in claim 2, wherein:
 when said key information is entered, said information reading means reads from said information storage means only said relevant information that is associated with said key information entered and deletes from said information storage means said relevant information that is associated

with said key information entered.

Claim 12 (new): The information-transfer system set forth in claim 2, wherein:
said information storage means comprises an IC tag, from and to which said relevant
information can be read and written without any physical contact.

Claim 13 (new): The information-transfer system set forth in claim 3, wherein:
said information storage means comprises an IC tag, from and to which said relevant
information can be read and written without any physical contact.

Claim 14 (new): A physical distribution system comprising at least one physical distribution
base, through which an object is delivered from a sending source to a receiving destination, wherein:
said physical distribution system comprises the information-transfer system set forth in claim
2.

Claim 15 (new): A physical distribution system comprising at least one physical distribution
base, through which an object is delivered from a sending source to a receiving destination, wherein:
said physical distribution system comprises the information-transfer system set forth in claim
3.

Claim 16 (new): A physical distribution system comprising at least one physical distribution base, through which an object is delivered from a sending source to a receiving destination, wherein:
said physical distribution system comprises the information-transfer system set forth in claim 4.

Claim 17 (new): The information-transfer system set forth in claim 7, wherein:
said information reading means reads said first relevant information from said information storage means and deletes said first relevant information from said information storage means after the reading.

Claim 18 (new): The information-transfer system set forth in claim 7, wherein:
said information storage means comprises an IC tag, from and to which said relevant information can be read and written without any physical contact.

Claim 19 (new): The information-transfer system set forth in claim 8, wherein:
said information storage means comprises an IC tag, from and to which said relevant information can be read and written without any physical contact.

Claim 20 (new): A physical distribution system comprising at least one physical distribution base, through which an object is delivered from a sending source to a receiving destination, wherein:
said physical distribution system comprises the information-transfer system set forth in claim 7.